United States History Time Line

33,000 B.C.  First Native Americans arrive in North America

1492  Columbus arrives in the New World

1517  Reformation begins in Germany led by Martin Luther; beginning of Protestant Reformation

1588  English Navy defeats Spanish Armada in the English Channel; now able to colonize

1607  Jamestown founded by Virginia company
1612  Tobacco made a profitable crop by John Rolfe
1619  First group of blacks brought to Virginia
First legislative assembly, the House of Burgesses, meets in Virginia
1620  First Pilgrims arrive in Plymouth Bay
1629  Great Puritan migration to Massachusetts Bay
1636  Harvard College founded (to train ministers)
Pequot War
Rhode Island founded by Roger Williams (“liberty of conscience”)  
1639  Fundamental Orders in CT (1st written constitution in American history)
Maryland Act of Toleration

1642-49  English Civil War
1643  New England Confederation formed (collective security against Amerindians)
1648  Cambridge Platform
1651  First of Navigation Laws passed
1660  Restoration (Charles II)
1662  Half-way Covenant
1664  British kick out Dutch from New Netherlands; rename region New York
1675  King Philip’s War
1676  Bacon’s Rebellion
1681  Pennsylvania founded (“Holy Experiment”)
1686  Creation of Dominion of New England (under Sir Edmund Andros)
1688  “Glorious Revolution” in England
1689  Overthrow of Dominion of New England (“First American Revolution”)
1691  Leisler’s Rebellion
1692  Salem Witch Trials

18th Century
1713  “Salutary Neglect” ushered in by Treaty of Utrecht (War of Spanish Succession)
1733  Georgia founded by James Oglethorp (haven for debtors and buffer state against Spanish)
1736  Zenger Case (greater freedom of the press)
1739-1744  Great Awakening (Edwards, Whitfield)
1739  Carolina Regulator movement
Stono Rebellion (slaves)
1756-1763  French and Indian War
1763  Proclamation of 1763
1763 Pontiac's Rebellion
1764 Sugar Act, Currency Act, Quartering Act
1765 Stamp Act
1766 Paxton Boys
1766 Declaratory Act
1767 Townshend Act, New York Assembly suspended
1770 Boston Massacre
1772 Committees of Correspondence formed
1773 Boston Tea Party
1774 Coercive Acts (“Intolerable” Acts), First Continental Congress convenes
1775 Revolution begins with fighting at Lexington and Concord
1776 Declaratory Act
1777 Boston Massacre
1778 French join the war against the British (Franco-American Alliance)
1779 Battle of Yorktown (last major battle of the revolution)
1781 Articles of Confederation ratified
1783 Treaty of Paris
1783-1789 “Critical Period”; Articles of Confederation
1785 Land Ordinance
1786 Annapolis Convention
1787 Northwest Ordinance
1787 Shays' Rebellion
1788 Constitutional Convention
1788 Federalist Papers written
1789 George Washington inaugurated as President of the United States
1789-91 Hamilton’s financial plan
1793 Washington’s Neutrality Proclamation
1793 Citizen Genet
1794 Whiskey Rebellion
1794 Indians defeated at Fallen Timbers, sign Treaty of Greenville
1795 Jay Treaty, Pinckney Treaty
1796 Adams defeats Jefferson in first partisan election in U.S. history
1798 Undeclared war with France (“Quasi War”)
1799 Alien and Sedition Acts
1799 Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

19th Century
1800 Jefferson elected
1800 Gabriel Prosser’s slave rebellion
1803 Louisiana Purchase
1803 Marbury v. Madison
1804 Hamilton-Burr Duel (Essex Junto conspiracy)
1806 Burr Conspiracy
1807  Embargo Act
1808  Slave trade ended
1809  Non-intercourse Act
1810  Macon’s Bill #10
1811  Battle of Tippecanoe, Shawnee defeated
1812  War of 1812 begins with England
1814  Treaty of Ghent
1815  Battle of New Orleans
1816  Federalists lose to James Monroe ending Federalist party
          Henry Clay’s “American System” begins with tariff and BUS
1817  Rush-Bagot Treaty, limited armaments along Great Lakes
1818  Convention of 1818, U.S.-Canadian border established
1819  Adams-Onis Treaty (Florida Purchase Treaty)
          Panic of 1819
          McCullough v. Maryland
1820  Missouri Compromise
1820s  First labor unions formed
1823  Monroe Doctrine
1824  J.Q. Adams defeats Jackson (“Corrupt Bargain”)
          Gibbons v. Ogden
1825  Erie Canal completed
1828  Andrew Jackson elected
1830s  Railroad era begins
1830  Webster-Hayne debate
1831  Nat Turner’s rebellion
          Liberator founded by William Lloyd Garrison
1832  Nullification crisis
          BUS veto
1834  Whig party formed
1836  Texas Revolution ends; Republic of Texas established
1830s  “Trail of Tears (1838 for Cherokee)
1837  Charles River Bridge case
          Panic of 1837
1840s  Manifest Destiny
          Telegraph and railroads create a communications revolution
1846  Mexican War begins
1848  Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo
          Wilmot Proviso
1849  Gold Rush in California
1850  Compromise of 1850
          Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
1852  Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe
1853  Gadsden Purchase
          Commodore Matthew Perry forces Japan to open commerce
1854  Kansas-Nebraska Act
          Republican Party formed
Ostend Manifesto
1856  “Bloody Kansas”
      Senator Sumner attacked in the Senate
1857  Dred Scott case
1858  Lincoln-Douglas Debates
1859  John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry
1860  Democratic Party splits apart
      Abraham Lincoln elected 16th President of the United States
      Lower South secedes
1861  Civil War begins at Ft. Sumter
1862  Battle of Antietam
      Morrill Tariff, Homestead Act, National Banking Act, Pacific Railway Act
      Emancipation Proclamation issued (effective January 1, 1863)
1863  Battle of Gettysburg; Vicksburg
1864  Grant's wilderness campaign
      Sherman takes Atlanta and begins “March to the Sea”
1865  Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House
      Lincoln assassinated
      Thirteenth Amendment abolishes slavery
      KKK formed in Tennessee
1867  Congress launches Radical Reconstruction
      Alaska purchased
1868  Fourteenth Amendment guarantees Civil Rights
      Johnson impeached
1870  Fifteenth Amendment forbids denial of vote on racial grounds
1870s  Terrorism against blacks in South, flourishing of Darwinism and ideas of racial
       inferiority
1873  Panic of 1873
1876  End of Reconstruction
      Battle of Little Big Horn
1877  Munn v. Illinois: Court rules states may regulate warehouse rates
1878  Greenback Labor Party
1879  Standard Oil Trust formed
1880s  Big Business emerge
1880-1920 Fifteen million "new" immigrants
1883  Pendleton Civil Service Act
1886  Haymarket Square bombing
1887  Interstate Commerce Commission
      Dawes Severalty Act
1890  Sherman Anti-Trust Act
      Massacre at Wounded Knee
      Sherman Silver Purchase Act
      End of the Frontier
      Homestead Steel strike
1892  Populist movement creates 3rd party
1893  Panic of 1893
Repeal of Sherman Silver Purchase Act

1894  Pullman strike

1895  *Pollock v Farmers*: Supreme Court strikes down income tax
Morgan bond transaction

1896  McKinley defeats Bryan

1898  Spanish American War

1899  Peace with Spain, U. S. receives Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico
Open Door Note

**20th Century**

1901  McKinley assassinated; Theodore Roosevelt becomes President

1902  Northern Securities Co. prosecuted
Anthracite Coal strike

1904  Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine (begins over Dominican Republic)
1904-1914  Panama Canal built

1905  *Lochner v. U.S.*

1906  Hepburn Act, Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Inspection Act

1907  Panic of 1907

1908  San Francisco School Board Incident
*Muller v. Oregon*

1912  Election of Woodrow Wilson; defeats Taft and Roosevelt’s “Bull Moose” party

1913  16th Amendment: national income tax
  17th Amendment: direct election of Senators
Underwood Tariff Bill (lowers tariff; establishes income tax)
Federal Reserve System begun
Wilson broadens segregation in civil service

1914  World War I begins
U. S. troops occupy Vera Cruz
Clayton Antitrust Act
Federal Trade Commission created

1915  U. S. troops sent to Haiti
*Lusitania* sunk
KKK revived by *Birth of a Nation*

1916  Germany issues Sussex pledge

1917  Russian Revolution
U. S. enters WWI in light of unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany

1918  WWI ends
*Schenck v. U.S.*

1919  Treaty of Versailles
  18th Amendment prohibits alcoholic beverages
  “Red Scare” and “Red Summer”

1920  19th Amendment gives women the right to vote
Harding wins election; vows “normalcy”
First radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh

1921  Washington Naval (Disarmament) Conference

1922  Sacco and Vanzetti convicted (executed in 1927)
1924      Dawes Plan
Scopes trial
National Origins Act
1927      Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic
1929      Stock market crashes
1932      Franklin Roosevelt elected
1933      “Bank holiday,” “Hundred Days”: NRA, AAA, FDIC, TVA, FERA, CCC
21st Amendment: prohibition repealed
London Economic Conference (undermined by FDR)
Hitler comes to power in Germany
1934      Gold standard terminated
SEC
1935      “Second New Deal”: Social Security Act, WPA, NLRA (Wagner Act)
CIO formed
First of the Neutrality Laws
Butler v. U.S.; Schechter v. U.S.
1936      FDR re-elected
Spanish Civil War
1937      FDR attempts to pack Supreme Court with liberal judges
Japan invades China; FDR’s “Quarantine” speech
1938      Fair labor Standards Act (end of New Deal)
Hitler takes Austria, Munich Agreement
1939      World War II begins
1940      “Destroyers-for-Bases” deal with the British
Fall of France
First peacetime draft
1941      “Four Freedoms” speech
Lend-Lease, Battle of Britain, Hitler attacks USSR
Atlantic Charter
Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
1942      Japanese-Americans forced into internment camps
U. S. halts Japanese at Coral Sea and Midway
1943      North Africa campaign (El Alamein); invasion of Italy
Battle of Stalingrad
A. Philip Randolph, March on Washington Movement
1944      D-Day: France invaded
1945      Yalta Conference
FDR dies
Germany surrenders
Potsdam Conference
Atom bombs end WWII
San Francisco Conference, United Nations
Bretton Woods Conference: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank
1946      “Iron Curtain” speech
Nuremberg Trials
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<th>Year</th>
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| 1947 | Truman Doctrine  
Marshall Plan  
Containment  
Taft-Hartley Act  
Truman desegregates the armed forces |
| 1948-49 | Berlin Airlift |
| 1949 | Communist revolution in China (Mao Zedong)  
NATO formed  
Soviet Union explodes Atomic Bomb |
| 1950 | Korean War begins  
McCarthy witch hunts begin |
| 1951 | 22nd Amendment: two-term presidency |
| 1952 | Dwight Eisenhower elected President  
U.S. detonates Hydrogen bomb |
| 1953 | CIA overthrows Iranian leader and replaces him with the Shah  
Industries agree on guaranteed annual wage  
Stalin dies; Khrushchev wins power struggle and seeks “peaceful coexistence  
Soviets detonate Hydrogen bomb |
| 1954 | Brown v. Board of Education  
Dien Bien Phu; Vietnam divided  
CIA overthrows Guatemala government |
| 1955 | Montgomery Bus Boycott, emergence of Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| 1956 | Hungarian uprising |
| 1957 | Little Rock crisis  
Sputnik  
Eisenhower Doctrine  
Little rock Crisis  
Civil Rights Act |
| 1958 | NASA  
U.S. occupies Lebanon |
| 1960 | U-2 spy plane shot down over Russia  
John F. Kennedy elected President  
Greensboro sit-in |
| 1961 | Freedom rides (Congress of Racial Equality – CORE)  
Berlin crisis; Berlin Wall  
Peace Corps  
Bay of Pigs invasion |
| 1962 | University of Mississippi integrated (James Meredith)  
Cuban Missile Crisis  
Rachel Carson, Silent Spring  
Michael Harrington, The Other Side of America |
| 1963 | March in Birmingham; Civil Rights march on Washington  
JFK assassinated  
Betty Friedan: Feminine Mystique |
1964  Free speech movement at Berkeley, “New Left”, Students for a Democratic Society
      Twenty-fourth Amendment outlaws the poll tax
      Civil Rights Act of 1964
      Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
1965  The “Great Society”
      Voting Rights Act of 1965, March from Selma to Montgomery
      Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam
      Watts riots
      Malcolm X assassinated
1966  Black Power
      NOW formed
1967  Detroit Riot (and other cities)
      Peace movement in the U.S. ("doves")
1968  “The Year of Shocks”
      Tet Offensive, Johnson won't seek re-election
      Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King murdered
      Riot at Democratic National Convention in Chicago
      Richard Nixon elected President
      Black Panthers
1969  Vietnamization
      First man on the moon
      Nixon proposes “New Federalism”
1970  Secret bombing of Cambodia; Cambodian invasion announced
      Massacre at Kent State and Jackson State
      Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established
1971  Wage-price controls
      My Lai massacre revealed
      Pentagon Papers published
1972  détente: Nixon visits China and Soviet Union, SALT I
      Intensive bombing of North Vietnam
      Watergate burglary
      Nixon re-elected
1973  U. S. forces withdraw from Vietnam
      Arab oil crisis (OPEC)
      Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns
      Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed by Congress
      Roe v. Wade
1974  Watergate tapes
      Nixon resigns, Ford's pardon
      Serious inflation and recession
1975  Vietnam falls
      “stagflation”
      Mayaguez incident
      Helsinki Conference
1976  Jimmy Carter elected President
1977    Humanitarian diplomacy
1978    Camp David Accords
        Panama Canal treaties ratified
        Bakke case
1979    U. S. recognizes China
        Iran Hostage Crisis
        USSR invades Afghanistan
1980    U. S. boycotts Olympics, withdraws from SALT II
        Reagan elected President
1981    “Reaganomics”: reduced taxes (“trickle down”), increased defense spending
1983    “Star Wars” – Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)
        Prosperity returns: low inflation, lower interest rates, higher employment
1985    Gorbachev and Reagan begin arms limitation talks
1987    Iran-Contra Scandal
        INF Treaty
1988    George H.W. Bush elected president
1989    Fall of communism in eastern Europe
1991    Fall of the Soviet Union
        Gulf War (“Operation Desert Storm”)
1992    Bill Clinton elected president
1994    NAFTA passed
        Republicans win control of Congress for first time in 40 years
1995    Welfare Reform Bill
1997    Clinton impeached
1999    U.S.-led NATO forces bomb Serbia to protect ethnic Albanians in Kosovo
2000    Bush defeats Gore in perhaps closest electoral vote in U.S. History
2001    September 11 terrorist attacks on World Trade Center
2002    U.S. invades Afghanistan to remove Taliban and Al Qaeda
2003    U.S. invades Iraq; removes Saddam Hussein from power